

**CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2007**

Council President Elenora Simms called the Public Session to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Council President Simms, Mayor Eugene W. Grant (8:15 p.m.) Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Charl M. Jones, Councilmember John B. Morris, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Brian K. Shivers, and Councilmember Reveral L. Yeargin.

Staff: Sandra A. Yates, Acting City Administrator and City Clerk, Elliott S. Taylor, Chief of Police

The invocation was given by Councilmember Yeargin

Agenda – It was moved by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

September 2007 Minutes – It was moved by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Porter to approve the September 2007 minutes. The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) Grant Award – Jon Burrell, Executive Director, presented a \$1,500 “OSHA Guide to Industrial Hygiene” training grant awarded to the Public Works Department.

Seat Pleasant/University of Maryland Health Partnership Board of Directors – After presentation by SPUMHP Board member Mr. James Wright, the City Council welcomed Ms. Denise Lynch and Ms. Brenda White as the newest members of the Board.

REPORTS

City Administrator’s Report -

Ms. Yates, Acting City Administrator, reported the following:

- **Transitioning from a “Citizen Complaint” to “Customer Service” value system.**
 - Receive issue; take accurate contact information
 - Sent to appropriate department
 - Call to verify issue and tell when the problem will be fixed (if applicable)
 - Full-circle process
 - Launch a customer service survey in January 2008
 - Senior staff meetings will be held after the Public Session to resolve issues promptly

- **Newsletter** – We are changing printers and mailing houses. Public hearing notice for MD-704 will go out by Friday of this week.
 - Monthly newsletters for December and thereafter
 - Send your community news to the CA for the time being

- **Call-A-Bus**
 - The bus belongs to Prince George’s County
 - Terms of use were outlined in the agreement the City signed with the County
 - Monday – Friday
 - 8:30-3:30
 - Within a 5-mile radius of the city
 - The bus is for use of the general public
 - City has requested an exception for use throughout Prince George’s County
 - Other times and days of use is by special request
 - County Call-A-Bus has a nominal fee
 - \$.50 senior fare
 - \$1.00 regular fare
 - Register 14 days in advance
 - Call: 301-499-8603
 - Same operation days and hours as City bus

- **City Council Chambers Sound System** – the contract will be processed this week.
 - Takes 6-8 weeks to order and install equipment

- **Governor’s Wellmobile is coming to Seat Pleasant in December**
 - Once per week for one year
 - Will be parked at the Feggans Center
 - Wellmobile will provide services to the health needs of Seat Pleasant clients and Walker Mill Health Center clients

- Thank you to the Seat Pleasant/UMD health partnership for their hard work convincing the State to place the Wellmobile in Seat Pleasant
- More information and schedule forthcoming
- **Interview with Kaiser Permanente Health Plan Community Health Initiative** regarding their HEAL project coming to Prince George's County.
 - HEAL – Healthy Eating and Living project
 - Long-term community initiative (10 years or more)
 - Community resource to combat childhood and adult obesity and to improve nutrition
- **PG County Council and Planning Board hearing October 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration building**
 - Hearing on transit oriented development planned for the Capitol Heights Metro and surrounding area
- **MNCPPC Sub-region 4 Community Workshop**
 - Tuesday, October 16th @ Sports & Learning Complex
 - Sub-region 4 master plan has not been revised in over 10 years
- **State Highway Administration MD-704 Community Forum**
 - Wednesday, October 17th
 - John E Feggans Center
 - 6:00 – 7:30P
 - Safety improvements to MLK

CODE ENFORCEMENT/MONA

- Our Code Enforcement Officer appeared on C-TV to discuss illegal dumping
- Will be meeting with the CEO to discuss recurring issues and plan solutions

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Community Services Coordinator position advertised
 - Need to identify program areas
 - Establish and/or modify space @ Feggans Center
- Pre-Thanksgiving Senior outing to Golden Corral
- Halloween party for young people – entry fee is your parent
- Met with security services company
 - Interested in renting space @ Feggans Center
 - 2 training slots for city youth
 - Free personal safety classes for residents

- Seniors who live at home
- Children at bus stop
- Neighborhood watch
- CPR/First aid

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- FY08 Community Legacy Grant - \$769,529
 - for acquisition and demotion of delinquent properties
 - \$60k for façade improvements on MLK
- Holding meetings in next couple of weeks with local redevelopment organizations about rehab delinquent housing
- Moving forward with hiring a Economic Development project manager

FINANCE

- Researching doubling the tax rate for vacant houses
- Researching City tax credit for seniors

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Conducting a comprehensive analysis of vehicle request
- Completed by the end of the month

PUBLIC WORKS

- Gorgeous Prince George's Day activities – planting trees at:
 - G Street behind the CVS
 - Carrington Place
 - Birchleaf Drive
 - Seat Pleasant Elementary School
 - Retention pond @ Addison Plaza
- Working on an alternative street cleaning cycle due to the illness of the driver (requires a CDL)

LEGISLATION

Resolution R-07-07, City of Seat Pleasant Community Legacy Grant application. It was moved by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve Resolution R-07-07. The motion carried by majority.

1. Higgs - yes
2. Jones - yes
3. Morris - yes

4. Porter - yes
5. Shivers - yes
6. Simms - yes
7. Yeargin – abstain

Resolution R-07-08, Seat Pleasant Community Development Corporation Community Legacy Grant application. It was moved by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve Resolution R-07-08. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Higgs - yes
2. Jones - yes
3. Morris - yes
4. Porter - yes
5. Shivers - yes
6. Simms - yes
7. Yeargin - yes

CITIZEN COMMENT

Mr. Elmer Mims, Jr. – Mr. Mims requested that the City install speed humps on G Street to alleviate excessive speeding.

Ms. Pamela Boone – Ms. Boone reviewed CPAC activities for the previous month and dispensed a “9-1-1 emergency vs. non-emergency” flyer.

Ms. Jacquie Battle – Ms. Battle requested to have a monthly report from the Mayor added back to the agenda. Ms. Battle stated that she had been promised that the sidewalk on her block would be repaired and requested a status on the project. Ms. Battle asked about the street cleaning schedule and requested that street lighting be improved on several City streets that have dark stretches.

Mr. James Wright – Mr. Wright recommended that the City investigate a grant designated for the Eastern Avenue corridor.

Mrs. Elsie G. Marshall – Mrs. Marshall thanked Council President Simms for attending the Faith Temple No. 2 Community Day, and for a letter of regret sent to her by Councilmember Porter. She noted that Councilmember Higgs is a member of the church.

Mrs. Dorothy Bibb – Mrs. Bibb stated that a car with dead tags has been parked on Birchleaf Avenue for several months.

Mrs. Janice Fisher – Mrs. Fisher thanked the City Council for offering to co-sponsor the Seat Pleasant Dollars for Scholars annual fundraiser being held on Saturday, December 15, 2007 at the John E. Feggans Center Crystal Room.

Mr. Eugene Kennedy – Mr. Kennedy requested that the City pursue grants for youth services and programs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seat Pleasant will be participating in the County's Gorgeous Prince George's Day on Saturday, October 13th. Volunteers were asked to meet at the Public Works facility at 9:00 a.m.

The City of Seat Pleasant will receive a P.L.A.N.T. beautification award on Saturday, October 13th at the County's Gorgeous Prince George's Day Celebration being held at 1:00 p.m. at the Bladensburg Water Park.

MNCPPC will hold a Sub-Region Four Master Plan Community Forum on Tuesday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex.

The Maryland Department of Transportation will hold a public forum on proposed changes to improve safety on MD-704, MLK Jr. Highway on Wednesday, October 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Feggans Center.

Councilmember Higgs moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted,

Sandra A. Yates
Acting City Administrator & City Clerk